Dr. Rao's qualifications.

61. Mr. Chakko Cheruvathur.—Will the Government be pleased to state.—

(a) what was the qualification of Dr. Raghavendra Rao upon his first entertainment in the service in 1083;

(b) when was he sent up to specialise in Ophthalmology by our Government; was any stipend given to him by Government, and if so, for how many years and at what rate; was Dr. Puduval given any stipend for prosecuting his studies in England;

(c) were there not persons with higher qualifications in the service able and willing to be sent upon this deputation;

(d) what were the special reasons for selecting Dr. Rao for this training;

(e) and after all, is Dr. Rao an eye specialist now in any sense of the term;

(f) when was Dr. Rao raised to his present grade of Assistant Surgeon?

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—(a) The Hospital Assistant's Test.

(b) He was not sent up by the Government to specialise in Ophthalmology. He went at his own instance. No stipend was given. He was given half pay during his study leave, viz., Rs. 38—12—0 per mensem from 11th Mithunam 1089 to 21st Vrischigam 1092. Dr. Puduval was offered the same privilege, but he did not avail himself of it.

(c) No answer is required.

(d) No answer is required.

(e) The Government cannot say.

(f) Dr. Rao is not an Assistant Surgeon. He became a second grade Civil Surgeon on 1st Kumbham 1095, and was confirmed as first grade Civil Surgeon with effect from 18th Medam 1097. He was not an Assistant Surgeon at any time.

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